



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: ALMEN      Examiner: Unknown  
Serial No.: 10/773505      Group Art Unit: Unknown  
Filed: February 6, 2004      Docket: 06006.0020US01  
Title: HYDRAULIC ADJUSTABLE HINGED HITCH

**CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8:**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Patent App, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on April 30, 2004.

By: *A Ewald*  
Name: A Ewald

Mail Stop Patent App  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**23552**  
PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Sir:

We are transmitting herewith the attached:

- Transmittal Sheet in duplicate containing Certificate of Mailing
- Information Disclosure Statement, Form 1449
- Return postcard

Please consider this a PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME for a sufficient number of months to enter these papers or any future reply, if appropriate. Please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-2725. A duplicate of this sheet is enclosed.

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.  
P.O. Box 2903, Minneapolis, MN 55402-0903  
612.332.5300

By: *Curtis B. Hamre*  
Name: Curtis B. Hamre  
Reg. No.: 29,165  
CBH/ame



PATENT

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By: *A Ewald*  
Name: A Ewald

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b))

Mail Stop Patent App  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

With regard to the above-identified application, the items of information listed on the enclosed Form 1449 are brought to the attention of the Examiner.

This statement should be considered because it is submitted within three months of the filing date of the above-identified application, which is not an application under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(d). Accordingly, no fee is due for consideration of the items listed on the enclosed Form 1449.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(2)(i), a copy of the U.S. patents and U.S. patent publications listed on the enclosed Form 1449 are not provided, as this application was filed after June 30, 2003. A copy of any foreign patent document or "Other Document" listed on the Form 1449 is enclosed, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(2).

No representation is made that a reference is "prior art" within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 and Applicants reserve the right, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 or otherwise, to establish that the reference(s) are not "prior art." Moreover, Applicants do not represent that a

reference has been thoroughly reviewed or that any relevance of any portion of a reference is intended.

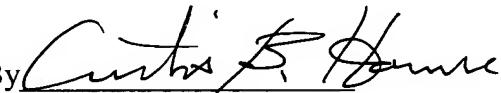
Consideration of the items listed is respectfully requested. Pursuant to the provisions of M.P.E.P. 609, it is requested that the Examiner return a copy of the attached Form 1449, marked as being considered and initialed by the Examiner, to the undersigned with the next official communication.

Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-2725.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.  
P.O. Box 2903  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903  
(612) 332-5300

Dated: April 30, 2004

By   
Curtis B. Hamre  
Reg. No. 29,165

CBH/ame



<b>FORM 1449*</b>  <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT</b>	Docket Number: <b>06006.0020US01</b>	Application Number: <b>10/773505</b>
<b>IN AN APPLICATION</b>	<b>Applicant:</b> Almen	
(Use several sheets if necessary)	<b>Filing Date:</b> February 6, 2004	<b>Group Art Unit:</b> Unknown



23552

**PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE**

**EXAMINER** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE CONSIDERED** \_\_\_\_\_  
EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form for next communication to the Applicant.